

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Requests Information

Acute Encephalopathy Associated with Influenza Virus Infection in U.S. Children

Since the mid-1990s, several hundred cases of acute encephalopathy have been reported in Japanese children with influenza. These illnesses have been characterized by fever and rapid onset of encephalopathy, resulting in a high frequency of neurologic sequelae and mortality. Most of the children have had laboratory-confirmed evidence of influenza virus infection. Reports of influenza-associated encephalopathy have been uncommon in the United States.

To determine if a similar pattern of influenza-associated encephalopathy is occurring in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is requesting information from health care providers on any patient with acute encephalopathy meeting the following criteria:

- < 18 years old
- Altered mental status, or personality change in patient lasting > 24 hours and occurring within 5 days of the onset of an acute febrile respiratory illness
- Laboratory or rapid diagnostic test evidence of acute influenza virus infection
- Diagnosed in the United States

Please report any suspected cases to either Dr. Tim Uyeki (404-639-0277; tmu0@cdc.gov) or Dr. Niranjana Bhat (404/639-2893; nib9@cdc.gov) at CDC.

Influenza-associated Deaths in U.S. Children

CDC would like to receive reports about any deaths in patients < 18 years old, with evidence of influenza virus infection.

We would like the following information on fatal cases in the U.S.:

- • Clinical summary with history of illness
- • Laboratory results, including documentation of influenza virus infection
- • Autopsy report if available

Please report any fatal influenza-associated pediatric cases to either Dr. Tim Uyeki (404-639-0277; tmu0@cdc.gov) or Dr. Niranjana Bhat (404/639-2893; nib9@cdc.gov) at CDC.